NORTH CAROLINA
Farm Report
Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

NO. 193 ie 194 RALEIGH, N. C. OCTOBER 18, 1955

TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP FOR ALL TYPES

Based on information as of October 1 from tobacco growers, warehousemen, and other key members of the industry, production of 1955 tobacco in North Carolina will exceed that estimated a month earlier. Production of flue-cured tobacco is now estimated at 1,-020,775,000 pounds, up approximately eighteen and one-half million pounds, or almost two percent, from the 1,-002,325,000 pounds reported as of September 1. Improvement in the burley crop also promises a higher production, the estimate for which has been raised from the 21,630,000 pound September forecast to a current expectation of 22,660,000 pounds, an increase of 4.8 percent.

Yields and total production of all types of flue-cured tobacco are expected to reach an all-time high. For Type 11, production is placed at 357,000,000 pounds at a yield of 1,-400 pounds per acre. This would be about 20 percent above the 297,920,000 pounds produced in 1954 and more than 17 percent over the 304,066,000 pounds for the 1944-53 ten-year average. Type 12 production is expected to reach 530,975,000 pounds, giving a yield of 1,675 pounds to the acre. This output is 11 percent above the 477,620,-000 pound production for 1954, and 24 percent higher than the 428,016,000 pound ten-year average. Border belt Type 13 production, estimated at 132,-800,000 pounds and yielding 1,600 pounds to the acre, tops last year's 113,950,000 pound production by 16.5 percent. It exceeds the ten-year average 105,346,000 pound production by 26 percent.

Burley tobacco for the State at the estimated production of 22,660,000 pounds shows a decrease of about 7

(Continued on Page 3)

N. C. CORN PROSPECTS DECLINE DURING SEPTEMBER

On the basis of probable yield reports from growers, as of October 1, the State's corn production is forecast at 63,643,000 bushels. The present forecast is a decline of 6,159,000 bushels since September 1 and 10,-265,000 bushels since August 1 before the hurricanes ''Connie'', ''Diane'', and ''Ione'' struck the State. Yield per acre is indicated at 31.0 bushels bushels compared with 24.0 for the drought-stricken year 1954.

Unfavorable weather conditions prevailed during September in the main corn producing Coastal Plains Area. In this section of the State two hurricanes struck about mid-August and were followed by heavy rainfall for two or three weeks. On September 19 and 20 the third hurricane, ''Ione'', struck in almost the same area, causing heavy damage to the crop. Prior to ''Ione'' the corn crop in the Coastal Plains Area was badly twisted and crossed, with considerable acreage almost flat on the ground. This latest hurricane slowed to almost a standstill over the Plains Area and was accompanied by high winds and heavy rainfall, together with high tides, that caused complete losses to some growers and resulted in very low yields to many other growers.

In the Piedmont and Mountain sections of the State the crop is mostly good to very good. Weather conditions in these areas have been generally favorable to above average throughout most of the growing season. In spite of adverse weather conditions, mostly in the Coastal Plains Area, the State's production of corn is expected to be the best since 1951.

Harvest of the crop has been underway for two or three weeks,

(Continued on Page 3)

COTTON REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1955

On the basis of reports from growers and ginners, the current cotton crop is estimated at 320,000 bales (500-pounds gross weight). This is 20,000 bales below the September 1 estimate. A crop of 320,000 bales, if realized, would be 44,000 bales below the 1954 crop and 172,000 bales, or 35 percent, below the 1944-53 average production. Yield per acre for this year on the 463,000 acres for harvest is calculated at 332 pounds of lint cotton. This is in comparison with a yield of 319 pounds for 1954 and a 10-year average yield of 334 pounds during 1944-53.

Weather conditions during September, in most of the cotton producing counties, continued unfavorable for the Tar Heel cotton crop. Production prospects are much more unfavorable in the hurricane-ridden Coastal Plain counties than in Central and Southern Piedmont counties where a relatively good crop is in prsopect In the former counties, strong winds and heavy rains which preceded and accompanied Hurricane Ione on September 19-20 added to the damage already done by Hurricanes Connie and Diane around mid-August.

Harvesting of the crop is further advanced in Piedmont counties where weather conditions have been relatively more favorable for picking. Owing to unfavorable weather conditions, harvesting operations State-wide are much less advanced than last year.

For the United States the cotton crop is forecast at 13,928,000 bales as of October 1. This is 1.7 percent above the 1954 crop and 7.5 percent above the 1944-53 National crop of 12,952,000 bales. The current estimate is up 1,055,000 bales, or about eight percent, from that of September 1. North Carolina was the only major cotton producing state showing a decrease over the month. Missouri registered no change while other states showed increases. Biggest increases were for Mississippi, Texas, and Arkansas; up 250,000; 150,000 and 125,000 bales, respectively.

COTTON ESTIMATES OCTOBER 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	Acreage For Harvest 1955 1/	Oct. 1 Condition			Lint Yield Per Acre			Production (500#) 2/			Ginnings To Oct. 1
		Average 1944-1953	1954	Indicated 1955 Crop	Average 1944-1953	1954	Indicated 1955 Oct. 1	Average 1944-1953	1954	Indicated 1955 Crop	
	(000)	(PERCENT)			(POUNDS)			(THOUSAND BALES)			
N. C.	463	72	76	69	334	319	332	492	364	320	101
S. C.	715	71	61	73	312	288	373	692	501	555	327
Ga.	869	69	64	81	253	286	378	695	612	685	432
Tenn.	570	74	68	84	360	405	472	565	548	560	118
Ala.	993	71	65	92	286	298	471	908	728	975	583
Miss.	1,679	73	68	93	341	384	529	1,693	1,571	1,850	761
Mo.	389	75	79	83	368	478	481	358	450	390	107
Ark.	1,453	71	64	87	338	380	479	1,386	1,351	1,450	438
La.	607	70	69	79	331	399	455	591	572	575	256
Okla.	807	60	45	78	160	151	238	390	293	400	52
Texas	6,649	70	68	74	188	245	289	3,388	3,940	4,000	1,511
N. Mex.	176	87	97	88	500	743	655	217	316	240	13
Ariz.	340	91	94	82	598	1,039	918	481	911	650	69
Calif.	743	92	96	91	631	806	795	1,048	1,487	1,230	29
Others 3/	61	-	-	-	283	367	376	47	52	48	18
U. S. TOTAL	16,514	73	71	82	279	341	405	12,952	13,696	13,928	4,815

1/ September 1 estimate. 2/ Production ginned and to be ginned. A 500-lb. bale contains about 480 pounds of lint. 3/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky and Nevada.

TOBACCO *(Continued)*

percent from last year's record of 24,384,000 pounds. The current burley yield, however, is placed at the phenomenal level of 2,200 pounds per acre -- by far an all-time high.

Total flue-cured tobacco production for the United States is placed at 1,543,733,000 pounds. This is a little over 17 percent larger than the crop for last year and about 24 percent larger than the ten-year average.

CORN *(Continued)*

mostly in the lower Coastal Plains Area. Very little corn has been harvested in the western half of the State as the crop is less advanced in this section.

N. C. SORGHUM GRAIN CROP GOOD

Sorghum grain production for the State is estimated at 3,600,000 bushels. The current estimate is a decline of 9 percent from September 1 when 3,960,000 bushels was indicated. The current lower estimate was brought about by continued wet weather following the August hurricanes and the added September hurricane ''Ione''. In spite of the lower estimate growers are expected to harvest 30 bushels per acre which equals the highest yield of record. The States acreage has continued to increase for the past 7 years.

The U. S. Production is estimated at 228,695,000 bushels compared with 204,087,000 last year and 134,582,000 for the 1944-53 average.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Soybean production as of October 1 is forecast at 4,132,500 bushels. This is 587,500 bushels below 1954 production of 4,720,000 bushels.

On the basis of reports made by growers, the yield per acre is forecast at 14.5 bushels. This is 1.5 bushels below 1954 but slightly above the 1944-53 average of 14.4 bushels.

The major portion of the soybean crop is produced in the Coastal Plains counties and these counties were hard hit by hurricanes during August and September which resulted in a loss of blooms and small pods. At the same time, several acres were destroyed by high water in these areas.

N. C. HAS BEST HAY PRODUCTION SINCE 1952

The 1955 ''All Hay'' crop is forecast at 1,253,000 tons -- 172,000 tons more than was produced during the drought stricken year 1954. The October 1 forecast indicates production to be highest since 1952. The estimated production in tons for alfalfa is 170,000, clover-timothy 115,000, soybeans 150,000, lespedeza 431,000 and ''all other kinds'' 387,000.

Alfalfa yield per acre is estimated at 2.30 tons compared with 1.80 in 1954 and 2.11 for the 1944-53 average. Soybean hay yield per acre is indicated at 1.15 tons compared with 1.05 in 1954 and 1.10 for the 10-year average. Lespedeza yield is indicated at 1.10 tons compared with .85 in 1954 and 1.05 for the 10-year average. The ''All Hay'' yield is estimated at 1.14 tons compared with .96 last year and 1.02 for the average.

UNITED STATES: A record crop of 109.9 million tons of hay is in prospect for 1955. This is 5.5 million tons more than the 1954 crop and 7.7 million more than the 10-year average. Gains during the month of September were mainly in Alfalfa and to a lesser extent in lespedeza.

N. C. SWEETPOTATO PROSPECTS DECLINE

Prospects for sweetpotato production in North Carolina declined during September. On the basis of reports from growers, as of October 1, the crop is estimated at 4,275,000 bushels. A crop of this size, if realized, would be 7 percent above 1954 production but 25 percent below the 1944-53 average crop of 5,690,000 bushels.

The crop was damaged by Hurricanes Connie and Diane around mid-August and by Hurricane Ione on September

(Continued on Page 6)

NORTH CAROLINA ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS
OCTOBER 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1944-53	Harvested 1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955
Corn, All	Bu.	2,204	2,116	2,053	28.4	24.0	31.0	62,641	50,784	63,643
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	410	338	324	17.5	22.0	21.5	7,178	7,436	6,966
Oats	Bu.	375	523	528	31.1	39.0	35.0	11,734	20,397	18,480
Barley	Bu.	38	57	57	28.8	34.0	29.0	1,108	1,938	1,653
Rye	Bu.	22	18	19	13.0	15.0	15.0	274	270	285
TOBACCO: All	Lbs.	710.2	698.7	665.3	1,207	1,308	1,568	855,264	913,874	1,043,435
Type 11	Lbs.	272.0	266.0	255.0	1,119	1,120	1,400	304,066	297,920	357,000
Type 12	Lbs.	341.8	334.0	317.0	1,256	1,430	1,675	428,016	477,620	530,975
Type 13	Lbs.	85.2	86.0	83.0	1,238	1,325	1,600	105,346	113,950	132,800
All Flue-Cured	Lbs.	699.0	686.0	655.0	1,204	1,297	1,558	837,428	889,490	1,020,775
Type 31, Burley	Lbs.	11.2	12.7	10.3	1,598	1,920	2,200	17,835	24,384	22,660
Cotton 1/	Lbs.	711	557	475	334	319	332	492	364	320
Sorghum, All	-	40	110	143	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum Grain	Bu.	2/ 22	89	120	2/ 26.2	25.0	30.0	2/ 590	2,225	3,600
Irish Potatoes, All	Bu.	63	39	40	137	151	174	8,508	5,889	6,960
Sweetpotatoes	Bu.	53	43	45	107	93	95	5,690	3,999	4,275
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	390	441	423	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans	Bu.	255	295	285	14.4	16.0	14.5	3,735	4,720	4,132
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes	-	272	178	189	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked and Threshed	Lbs.	257	172	182	1,190	1,465	1,475	297,142	251,980	268,450
Hay: All	Tons	1,248	1,130	1,099	1.02	.96	1.14	1,266	1,081	1,253
Clover & Timothy 3/	Tons	98	96	96	1.12	1.05	1.20	110	101	115
Alfalfa	Tons	41	67	74	2.11	1.80	2.30	87	121	170
Lespedeza	Tons	513	467	392	1.05	.85	1.10	539	397	431
Pasture, Condition	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	47	81
Peaches, All	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,742	1,150	4/
Apples, Commercial 5/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,220	1,900	40
Pears, All	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	125	4/
Grapes, All	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	2.6	2.3
Pecans: All	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,371	1,000	725
Wild or Seedling	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	257	140	150
Improved	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,114	860	575

1/ *Acres in cultivation July 1; Prod. in Bales.*
2/ *Short time average.*
3/ *Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.*
4/ *1955 crop almost a complete failure bacause of spring freeze. A few peaches may be produced but prospective production is too small to warrant a forecast at this time.*
5/ *Estimates of commercial crop refer to total production in commercial apple areas.*

UNITED STATES ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS
OCTOBER 1; 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1944-53	Harvested 1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955
Corn, All	Bu.	84,675	79,875	80,765	36.4	37.1	38.6	3,080,115	2,964,639	3,117,739
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	47,942	38,636	33,891	18.0	20.5	20.3	867,390	790,737	689,403
Wheat, All	Bu.	67,656	53,712	47,376	17.1	18.1	19.3	1,154,073	969,781	915,528
Oats	Bu.	39,556	42,151	42,009	33.4	35.6	38.9	1,323,321	1,499,579	1,636,030
Barley	Bu.	10,329	12,994	14,099	25.9	28.5	27.4	266,918	370,126	386,551
Rye	Bu.	1,740	1,718	2,081	12.1	13.8	13.7	21,097	23,688	28,448
TOBACCO: Flue-Cured	Lbs.	1,046.7	1,042.2	994.3	1,195	1,261	1,553	1,248,185	1,314,407	1,543,733
Burley	Lbs.	454.5	420.9	325.8	1,270	1,585	1,590	576,154	667,172	517,910
All Types	Lbs.	1,734.3	1,666.1	1,520.5	1,213	1,342	1,518	2,098,738	2,236,408	2,308,028
Cotton 1/	Lbs.	22,763	19,791	17,096	279	341	405	12,952	13,696	13,928
Sorghums, All	-	13,283	17,828	21,400	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum Grain	Bu.	2/ 7,180	10,764	13,228	2/ 18.4	19.0	17.3	2/134,582	204,087	228,695
Irish Potatoes, All	Bu.	1,967	1,408	1,444	213.1	252.8	268.3	401,146	356,031	387,334
Sweetpotatoes	Bu.	496.5	345.5	338.7	94.3	86.5	105.1	46,951	29,880	35,593
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	13,740	18,753	19,860	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans	Bu.	11,987	17,037	18,397	19.9	20.1	20.4	238,488	342,795	374,816
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes	-	3,134	1,936	2,034	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed	Lbs.	2,562	1,388	1,656	784	737	1,057.0	1,921,095	1,023,070	1,749,825
HAY: All	Tons	74,328	72,770	74,667	1.38	1.43	1.47	102,199	104,380	109,908
Alfalfa	Tons	16,685	22,996	25,082	2.21	2.15	2.10	36,890	49,328	52,703
Clover & Timothy 3/	Tons	22,097	19,312	18,064	1.41	1.43	1.48	31,115	27,579	26,731
Lespedeza	Tons	6,343	3,702	4,307	1.04	.82	1.13	6,635	3,052	4,875
Pasture, Condition	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	63	66
Peaches, All	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/ 68,767	5/ 61,316	50,539
Apples, Commercial 4/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/106,402	109,512	107,323
Pears, All	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/ 30,950	30,434	30,363
Grapes, All	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/ 2,925	2,569	3,134
Pecans: All	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	141,437	90,510	89,800
Wild Or Seedling	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	76,387	51,550	67,475
Improved	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	65,050	38,960	22,325

1/ Acres in cultivation July 1: Prod. In Bales.
2/ Short-Term Average.
3/ Excludes Sweet Clover and Lespedeza Hay.
4/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to total production of apples in commercial apple areas of each State.
5/ For some States in certain years production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions.

SWEETPOTATOES *(Continued)*

19-20. Heavy rains during and after these hurricanes kept soils saturated and resulted in much of the crop developing cracks and growing into ''jumbo size''

HONEY PRODUCTION REPORT

North Carolina honey production for 1955 amounted to 3.5 million pounds. This amount is 30 percent below the 5.0 million pound production for 1954 and 45 percent below the record high crop of 6.4 million pounds produced in 1951. Total colonies of bees were estimated at 183,000, a 5 percent reduction from the 193,000 on hand in 1954. Calculated production per colony in 1955 is only 19 pounds, the lowest average turnout since 1949 and short of last year's yield by 7 pounds.

Bee colonies suffered quite heavily from the late March freeze, and, with the resulting lack of flowers, many broods found it hard to recover. Artificial feeding was necessary for many hives, and some of these produced only enough honey from late flowers to carry them over the coming winter. In some sections late blooming clovers, sourwood, etc., produced a good flow of nectar, but for the State as a whole 1955 was a poor year for honey production.

The 1955 honey crop in the U. S. is estimated at 243,100,000 pounds -- 12 percent more than last year's crop. This year's honey crop is being produced by 5,238,000 colonies of bees -- 4 percent fewer than in 1954. Honey production per colony averaged 46.4 pounds, which compares with 39.8 in 1954 and the 1949-53 average of 43.7 pounds. In mid-September, producers had about 92 million pounds of honey on hand for sale -- about 38 percent of the estimated 1955 production.

SMALLEST PECAN PRODUCTION SINCE 1930

Based on reports from growers as of October 1, a pecan crop of 725,000 pounds is estimated. The current estimate is 28 percent below the small production of 1954 and is 69 percent below the 1944-53 average. The 1955 crop was hard hit by the freeze on March 25 of this year. During the past month considerable shedding of nuts has taken place and heavy damage from hurricane ''Ione'' reduced earlier prospects.

The United States crop is forecast at 89,800,000 pounds, an increase of 8.4 million pounds over the September forecast. The current forecast is about equal to the small 1954 production although 37 percent below the 1944-53 average.

PEANUT CROP DAMAGED BY EXCESSIVE MOISTURE

Production of peanuts in North Carolina this year is indicated at 268,450,000 pounds by October 1 conditions. This production forecast, which is five percent below that predicted a month earlier, reflects damage to the crop resulting from excessive rainfall in important commercial areas. The per acre yield of peanuts is now estimated at 1,475 pounds -- just slightly above the 1,465 pounds realized from last year's drought-damaged crop.

Excessive rain during September and the last half of August caused heavy growth of plants, but reports indicated that branches produced fewer ''pegs'' than usual. In some cases where soils have been waterlogged, peanuts were rotting in the ground and shedding from the plants has been heavy.

FARM WAGE RATES

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	Oct. 1 1954	Oct. 1 1955
NORTH CAROLINA		
Per Day:		
With House.....	$ 4.40	$ 4.35
Without Board Or Room..	5.10	5.10
Per Hour:		
Without Board Or Room..	.59	.61
Index Of Composite Rates* *(Percent)*	617	625
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES		
Per Day:		
With House.....	$ 4.05	$ 4.00
Without Board Or Room..	4.75	4.75
Per Hour:		
Without Board Or Room..	.60	.62
Index Of Composite Rates* *(Percent)*	587	597

* *Percent of 1910-14 average adjusted for seasonal variation.*

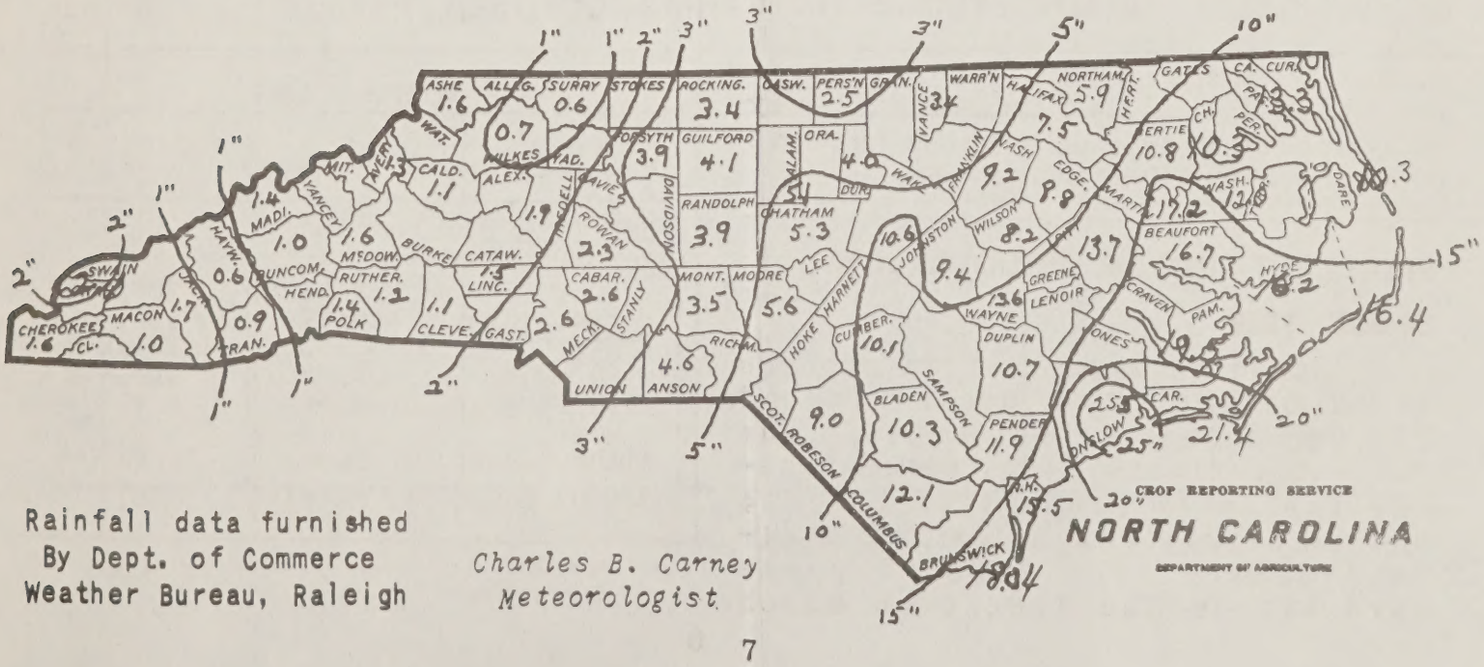
WEATHER SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER, 1955

September weather, like that of August, was highlighted by hurricane activity. Hurricane Ione, which passed through North Carolina on September 19, gave its exclusive attention to this State; no other land area was touched except by fringe area effects. The strom center passed through North Carolina along a path never more than thirty miles from that which the sister storm, Connie, took on August 12. Other stormy periods of less severity affected eastern North Carolina on the first several days of September, on the 11th, and again near the 25th. During practically the entire month, heavier-than-usual cloudiness and rainy weather persisted over the eastern two-thirds of the State. Meanwhile, the mountains and southwestern Piedmont had typically fair autumn weather, with nearly twice the sunshine in the Mountains as on the Coast.

TEMPERATURE: Temperatures averaged close to normal over North Carolina during September, both in the cloudy, rainy eastern sections and in the sunny western area. In the east, however, the averages were made up of cooler-than-normal daytime temperatures and warmer-than-normal nighttime readings, while in the prevailing fair weather of the west both day and night temperatures were more typical of the fall season. There were no unusual extremes of temperature in any part of the State; in fact, the temperature weather of the month was generally mild, with no station even closely approaching last September's extremes of 109 and 27. The highest yet reported for this September has been 96 degrees and the lowest near 40. Most stations reached 90 degrees on only one or two days in the entire month.

PRECIPITATION: The rainfall pattern in North Carolina during September was one of the most remarkable in the weather history of the State. Torrential downpours drenched eastern North Carolina on three occasions; the first period was centered about the 3rd of the month, the second around the 10th, and the third came in connection with Hurricane Ione on the 19th. Amounts up to six inches fell with the first of these rain periods, and as high as three inches with the second, with Ione amounts ranging from five to more than sixteen inches fell over nearly half of the State. All these rains tapered off steadily from east to west across North Carolina, and very dry weather prevailed all month in the Mountains and southwestern Piedmont. Total amounts for September ranged from around half an inch in the driest mountain sections to more than twenty-five inches in the Hoffman Forest section of Onslow County.

INCHES OF RAINFALL FOR SEPTEMBER, 1955



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist

FARM REPORT

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GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS OCTOBER 1

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Average 1944-53	1954	1955
	--Thousand Bushels--					
Corn 1/.....	5,148	3,577	2,380	299,258	359,346	306,877
Wheat.....	3,461	3,569	3,204	524,243	429,474	415,019
Oats.....	6,192	11,422	10,718	1,065,662	1,182,323	1,292,047
Barley.....	626	1,124	860	166,243	226,695	253,492
Rye.....	142	148	185	11,104	14,583	19,216
Soybeans 1/....	56	4	14	2,770	529	3,969
Sorghum 1/.....	2/	2/	2/	3/ 5,230	3,179	5,392

1/ *Old crops of corn, soybeans and sorghum grain.*
2/ *Not available.*
3/ *1947-53 average.*